

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 VALLET 00575 270736Z

51

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 NEA-10 EB-11 TRSE-00 AID-20 DRC-01 /143 W

----- 099789

R 261412Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5386

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION NATO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VALLETTA 0575

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, MT

SUBJ: CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES

REF: VALLETTA 128

1. PM MINTOFF'S DESIRE TO AMEND CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF MALTA'S CONSTITUTION ILLEGALLY IF NECESSARY, RECEIVED RENEWED PUBLIC ATTENTION OVER LAST WEEKEND DURING MLP SPONSORED SEMINAR ENTITLED "TOWARDS A BETTER CONSTITUTION".

2. SPEAKING AT THE SEMINAR, LABOR MINISTER CASSAR CLAIMED THAT THE BRITISH HAS FORCED THE THEN NATIONALIST GOVERNMENT TO ACCEPT A CONSTITUTION PLANNED BY HMG AND MAINTAINED THAT GOM HAD EVERY RIGHT TO CHANGE IT. AT THE SAME SEMINAR, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY WINSTON ABELA MADE THE SAME POINT, ADDING THAT GOM INTENDED TO REDUCE THE VOTING AGE FROM 21 TO 18 BEFORE THE NEXT ELECTIONS "IRRESPECTIVE OF CIRCUMSTANCES AND WHAT THE NATIONALISTS MIGHT SAY". GOM, HE SAID, ALSO WANTS TO CHANGE THE PRESENT PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION SYSTEM WHICH IS TOO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 VALLET 00575 270736Z

COMPLICATED, AND IT IS STUDYING SYSTEMS USED IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

3. COMMENT: THESE STATEMENTS SERVE FURTHER TO COMMIT THE LABOR GOVERNMENT TO MAKE CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES EVEN WITHOUT THE REQUIRED TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY FOR CERTAIN SECTIONS. ALTHOUGH SOME NATIONALIST MP'S TELL US THAT THEY AGREE IN PRINCIPLE WITH CERTAIN OF THESE CHANGES (VOTE AT 18 WAS CONTAINED IN NATIONALIST 1971 ELECTION PLATFORM.), THERE HAS BEEN NO SPECIFIC INDICATION THAT NP WILL CHANGE TO COOPERATE WITH LABOR. SHADOW FINMIN FELICE HAS EXPRESSED TO US THE VIEW THAT GOM SHORTLY WILL MAKE SERIOUS MOVE TO CHANGE CONSTITUTION "IN ORDER TO DIVERT PUBLIC ATTENTION FROM THE ENERGY CRISIS." IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT IN MID-JANUARY PM MINTOFF THREATENED TO MOVE AHEAD IN "TWO OR THREE MONTHS TIME". HOWEVER, THE BUDGET DEBATE AND OTHER BUSINESS MAY TAKE UP ALL OF PARLIAMENT'S TIME UNTIL APRIL 11, WHEN IT IS EXPECTED TO RISE FOR EASTER RECESS OF ABOUT FIVE WEEKS.GETZ

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REFORM, CONSTITUTION, CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS, POLITICAL FREEDOM, SUFFRAGE, SELFDETERMINATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974VALLET00575
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740066-0343
From: VALLETTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740313/aaaaamcd.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: VALLETTA 128
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 MAY 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <29 JUL 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES
TAGS: PINT, MT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005